

the states to change the system, either get rid of it or modify it, as I have proposed, or just learn to live with it, and I'm not happy with the third alternative. I would buy either of the other two. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Just quickly, Madam President, I rise to support LB 115 maybe for a few different reasons and I will try to stress those rather than repeat any of the arguments that Senator Withem or others have stated. Though I appreciate Senator Withem's comments because I think it was a good refresher on how the electoral college actually works and how it doesn't work. One of the things that appeals to me about the process is that Americans have a feeling that they...that's inbred that they want to vote for president and they want to have their vote count. And one of the things that we've done, we've created this electoral college which, quite honestly, I would rather see abolished but, nonetheless, we do have the electoral college created many, many years ago for reasons other than a pure democratic philosophy. But, nonetheless, when they came down with the numbers of electoral college votes in a state they said, let's break it down to the number of senators and the number of congressional districts and we have a couple of at large in the State of Nebraska and each district then has a vote, if you wish, in electoral college. And it doesn't make much sense to me to tell people that, you know, the real people who select the President of the United States is the electoral college. And, by the way, you and your congressional district in Nebraska, each congress...you have one vote for the president, and if the majority of your people support candidate X, it may very well be that because the rest of the state has, by majority, voted for candidate Y, the person who is representing your own district and the majority voted for candidate X, that vote would be going for candidate Y. You know, and I think it's very difficult to sell Nebraskans on the idea that their vote is really being heard. And I agree with others that I don't believe this is a partisan issue, though it may end up...the vote may end up being that way, I don't believe the issue is really that. The issue is do all people in the districts...should their desires be at least at some small way felt at the electoral college level where the selection of the United States President is really made. And, to me, the answer is clear, I believe the democratic process is where the people's